Leakage of fuel from 'Black Rose' ship at Paradeep Port

1365. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fuel of the 'Black Rose' vessel at Paradeep Port has started leaking;

(b) if so, the extent to which it has spread in the sea so far;

(c) the steps taken to prevent leakage and remove the debris from sea bed; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the turtles from oil spill?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) A negligible quantity of oil leaked from the Engine room of the sunken vessel 'Black Rose', which was immediately removed by using a Pollution Control vessel, equipment and manpower of Paradip Port Trust. There was no spread of oil further in the sea.

(c) The Holes and Vents of the vessel were initially blocked and subsequently the entire fuel oil available in the sunken ship has been retrieved by an agency engaged for this purpose.

(d) There was no harm caused to any marine species including turtles.

Office of MMD at Chennai

1366. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an office of Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) in Chennai to help, regulate and assist the maritime sector;

(b) the details of the duties and authority of such MMD offices;

(c) whether Government has any plan to strengthen the Chennai Office of MMD to encourage the maritime sector;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government expects the maritime sector to grow rapidly in India; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to decentralise and strengthen office of Directorate General of Shipping in Tamil Nadu and Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the main duties and authority of such MMD offices are as under:-

(1) Registration of sea-going vessels as laid down in Part-V of the Merchant Shipping Act and the rules made thereunder.

(2) Conduct examinations under Part VI of the Merchant Shipping Act and the rules made thereunder.

(3) Survey of Passenger ships as laid down in Part VIII of the M.S. Act and the rules made thereunder.

(4) Ensuring safety of the ship as per the procedure laid down in Part IX of the M.S. Act and the rules made thereunder.